

REMARKS

I. Status of the Claims:

Claims 1-27 and 86 were pending in the application prior to this response. No new matter has been introduced. Entry and consideration are respectfully requested.

II. Response to Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103:

Claims 1, 3, 5, 8, 15, 17, 19, 21 and 86 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Orito, in view of Arimoto, and, Sugiura, all of record.

Claims 4, 7, 9-14, 18, 20 and 22-27 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Orito in view of Arimoto, Sugiura and Kamisuwa, all of record.

Claims 2, 6 and 16 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Orito in view of Arimoto, Sugiura and Ohta, all of record.

Applicants respectfully contend that the teachings of the aforementioned combined references do not make obvious the present invention. According to the present invention, as recited in at least claims 1, 15 and 86, the image sensing apparatus includes a shading correction unit for applying shading correction on image data output from an image sensing unit, and transmits image sensing characteristic data other than the shading correction data to an image processing apparatus. The image processing apparatus generates image sensing characteristic correction data on the basis of the transmitted image sensing characteristic data, and corrects the shading-corrected image data, transmitted from the image sensing apparatus, using the generated image sensing characteristic correction data.

By contrast, Orito (US 6,072,912, hereafter "Orito") merely teaches that data to be used for the shading correction obtained in the image scanner is transferred to the host computer, and that the host computer performs shading correction. The image scanner in Orito does not have a storage medium which holds image sensing characteristic data other than the shading correction data, nor does it send the image sensing characteristic data to the host computer. Furthermore, without the image sensing characteristic data being sent from the image scanner, the host computer is not able to generate image sensing characteristic correction data on the basis of the image sensing characteristic data as in the present invention. As a result, Orito neither teaches the generation unit of the present invention, nor an image sensing characteristic correction unit which corrects image data using the generated image sensing characteristic correction data as recited in at least claims 1, 15 and 86.

Arimoto et al. (US 5,371,613, hereafter "Arimoto") discloses an image sensing apparatus which comprises a shading correction unit, however, Arimoto does not teach that image sensing characteristic data, other than shading correction data, is stored in the image sensing apparatus and outputted to outside. Arimoto neither discloses that an image processing apparatus generates image sensing characteristic correction data based on the image sensing characteristic data, other then the shading correction data, transmitted from the image sensing apparatus, nor does it correct a shading-corrected image data using the generated image sensing characteristic correction data. Therefore, not only does Arimoto not disclose all of the elements of the present invention as recited in at least claims 1, 15 and 86, but it also fails cure the deficiencies previously identified in Orito.

Sugiura et al. (US 4,679,074, hereafter "Sugiura") discloses the selection, via a selector switch, of one of multiple correction tables in the input correction device 405 provided in an image forming apparatus in accordance with a type of an input apparatus connected to the image forming apparatus.

In Sugiura, the correction tables are stored in the input correction device 405 (column 4, lines 7-8) located in the image forming apparatus, not an input apparatus 101 or a color scanner 403. There is no teaching in Sugiura about transmitting the correction tables from the input apparatus 101 and color scanner 403 to the image forming apparatus, or generating image sensing characteristic correction data based on the selected correction tables as required in at least claims 1, 15 and 86.

As described above, none of Orito, Arimoto and Sugiura discloses the storage medium in the image sensing apparatus, and the generation unit and the image sensing characteristic correction unit in the image processing apparatus of the present invention.

Therefore, Applicants believe that independent claims 1, 15 and 86, as well as their respective dependent claims, of the present invention are patentable over any combination of Orito, Arimoto and Sugiura.

CONCLUSION

Based on the foregoing remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims and allowance of this application.

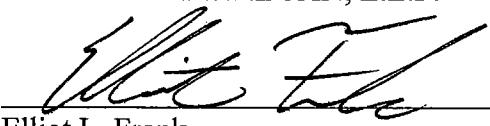
AUTHORIZATION

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required for consideration of this Response to Deposit Account No. 13-4500, Order No. 1232-4677.

In the event that an extension of time is required, or which may be required in addition to that requested in a petition for an extension of time, the Commissioner is requested to grant a petition for that extension of time which is required to make this response timely and is hereby authorized to charge any fee for such an extension of time or credit any overpayment for an extension of time to Deposit Account No. 13-4500, Order No. 1232-4677.

Respectfully submitted,
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